

In the Drawings:

Please replace Figures 1 to 5 as filed by Figures 1 to 5 submitted herewith.

Remarks

1. Referring to sections 1 and 2 of the Office Action, Figures 2 to 5 of the drawings have been amended not only to attend to the issues identified by the Examiner but to also make further changes to render said drawings consistent with the description. Consequently, Figure 3 has been amended to be consistent with the description at paragraph 5 of page 6 of the specification (section 2 of the Office Action).
2. The Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 9 and 11 to 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Rekhter (US6463061). Applicant has amended the independent claims in a manner believed to patentably distinguish the present invention over Rekhter and thus place all the claims in condition for allowance.
3. The object of the present invention is to provide an improved method of dynamically establishing paths in a packet communications system comprising a plurality of interconnected autonomous systems. The present invention overcomes problems associated with the prior art method of statically provisioning paths between autonomous systems using the mechanism of pre-establishing labels for an end-to-end label switched path from a border router in one autonomous system to a border router in another autonomous such that no reprocessing of packets' IP headers are necessary. Rekhter is representative of such prior art method.
4. The present invention achieves the above object by establishing a first label switched path within a first autonomous system from a source router to an edge (border) router of said first autonomous system, establishing a second label switched path within a second autonomous system from an edge (border) router of said second autonomous system to a destination router of said same system; and at an interface between the first and second autonomous systems comprising said edge routers, mapping the first label switched path on to the second label switched path.

5. As acknowledged by the Examiner, Rekhter describes a method of routing an information packet D1 between two autonomous systems CE1 and CE2. It does this by establishing a single statically provisioned end to end label switched path between a first border router PE2 and a second border router PE1 using two tags which are popped and replaced/removed by transit routers P2, P1. It is clear therefore that Rekhter does not disclose the steps of establishing separate label switched paths within the two autonomous systems and mapping the first and second label switched paths at an interface between the autonomous systems. Consequently, the independent claims of the present application as amended are not anticipated by Rekhter.

6. It should also be noted that the present invention overcomes problems associated with the prior art system and method represented by Rekhter and, as such, makes a useful contribution to the art thereover. The present invention enables paths between a source router within a first autonomous system and a destination router within another autonomous system to be dynamically provisioned, which is desirable. Consequently, it cannot be argued that the present invention as now defined would have been obvious over Rekhter whether taken on its own or in combination with Bays (US2002/0141343).

7. The Examiner's rejection of dependent claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rekhter in view of Bays is moot in view of the foregoing.

8. Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

December 5, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

William M. Lee, Jr.
Registration No. 26,935
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
P.O. Box 2786
Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786
(312) 214-4800
(312) 759-5646 (fax)

In the Drawings:

Please replace Figures ~~2~~¹ to 5 as filed by Figures ~~2~~¹ to 5 submitted herewith.